

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ZAIRE IN US PRESS

1. JUNE 1 EDITION OF NEW YORK TIMES CARRIES FRONT-PAGE
ARTICLE ENTITLED BREZHNEV CHARGES ACTIONS OF WEST IN AFRICA
ARE DAMAGING RELATIONS. EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

2. QUOTE PRAGUE, MAY 31 - LEONID I. BREZHNEV, RESPONDING
TO AMERICAN CHARGES OF SOVIET-CUBAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT
IN AFRICA, SAID TODAY THAT WESTERN ACTIONS THERE COULD
THREATEN DETENTE.

THE DISPATCH OF FRENCH AND BELGIAN PARATROOPS TO ZAIRE TWO
WEEKS AGO TO RESCUE EUROPEANS TRAPPED BY REBELS WAS AN
ACT OF "CYNICAL INTERFERENCE" HARMFUL TO THE DETENTE
PROCESS, THE SOVIET LEADER SAID.

IN HIS SPEECH, MR. BREZHNEV ACCUSED WESTERN LEADERS OF
MAKING PLANS FOR "NEW WARLIKE PREPARATIONS" AT THE
MEETING OF LEADERS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY
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ORGANIZATION IN WASHINGTON.

PRESIDENT CARTER SAID AT THE MEETING YESTERDAY THAT THE
WEST COULD NOT BE INDIFFERENT TO SOVIET AND CUBAN

PENETRATION IN AFRICA. BUT MR. BREZHNEV REJECTED
ACCUSATIONS OF SOVIET-BLOC INVOLVEMENT IN THE REBEL

RAID INTO SOUTHERN ZAIRE.

"THERE ARE POLITICAL CIRCLES THAT ARE EVIDENTLY TRYING TO MAR THE PROCESS OF DETENTE, NOT ONLY IN EUROPE, AND TO RETURN, IF NOT TO THE COLD WAR, THEN AT LEAST TO A LUKEWARM WAR," HE SAID.

SPEECH DELIVERED IN QUIET TONE

"THIS DIRECTION IS TAKEN THROUGH SUCH ACTIONS AS THE BLOODY INTERVENTION OF NATO MEMBER STATES IN ZAIRE. THESE CIRCLES HAVE TRIED TO MASK THE CYNICAL CHARACTER OF THIS INTERFERENCE, TO DIVERT ATTENTION BY A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN ABOUT A FABRICATED 'SOVIET' AND, AT OTHER TIMES, 'CUBAN' PARTICIPATION IN THE EVENTS."

IN A GENERALLY RESTRAINED REVIEW OF WORLD AFFAIRS, MR. BREZHNEV AVOIDED DIRECT MENTION OF THE UNTIED STATES, AND DID NOT REFER BY NAME TO FRANCE AND BELGIUM IN DISCUSSING ZAIRE. UNQUOTE.

3. DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT. VANCE

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